

CHAPTER 2.1.9.

BLUETONGUE

Article 2.1.9.1.

For the purposes of this *Code*, the *infective period* for bluetongue virus (BTV) shall be 100 days.

The global BTV distribution historically has been shown to be between latitudes of approximately 40°N and 35°S.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Manual*.

In the absence of clinical disease in a country or zone within this part of the world, its BTV status should be determined by an ongoing surveillance and monitoring programme (carried out in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.5.) designed in accordance with the epidemiology of the disease, i.e. focusing on climatic and geographical factors, the biology of *Culicoides* and/or serology of susceptible animals. The programme may need to be adapted to target parts of the country or zone at a higher risk due to historical, geographical and climatic factors, ruminant and *Culicoides* population data, or proximity to enzootic or incursional zones. Random and targeted serological surveillance should provide at least a 95% level of confidence of detecting an annual seroconversion incidence of 2% in cattle (or other ruminant species if sufficient cattle are not available).

Countries or zones located outside this part of the world but adjacent to a [territory] country or zone [within this part of the world] not having free status should be subjected to similar surveillance. The surveillance programme should be carried out over a distance of at least 100 kilometres from the border with that [territory] country or zone.

Article 2.1.9.2.

BTV free country or zone

A country or a zone may be considered free from BTV when bluetongue is notifiable in the whole country and either:

- 1) the country or zone lies wholly north of 40°N or south of 35°S, and is not adjacent to a country or zone not having a free status, or
- 2) a surveillance and monitoring programme as described in Article 2.1.9.1. has demonstrated no evidence of BTV in the country or zone during the past 2 years, nor have any ruminants been vaccinated against bluetongue in the country or zone during the past 12 months, or
- 3) a surveillance and monitoring programme has demonstrated no evidence of *Culicoides* in the country or zone.

For maintenance of the free status, the provisions of the last paragraph of Article 2.1.9.1. may need to be complied with on a continuous basis according to the geographical location of the country or zone.

Appendix X (contd)

A BTV free country or zone in which surveillance and monitoring has found no evidence that BTV vectors are present will not lose its free status through the importation of seropositive or infective animals, or semen or embryos/ova from infected countries or zones.

A BTV free country or zone [should be separated from] adjacent to an infected country or zone [by] should include a surveillance zone as described in Article 2.1.9.1. Animals within the surveillance zone must be subjected to continuing surveillance.

The boundaries of the surveillance zone must be clearly defined, and must take account of geographical and epidemiological factors that are relevant to BTV infection.

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